

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, AU

SUBJ: MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

1. AMONG 520 SOCIALIST PARTY SPONSORED MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS, THE VIENNA AND GRAZ EVENTS WERE MOST NOTEWORTHY IN REFLECTING CURRENT POLITICAL CONSTELLATION. CHANCELLOR KREISKY WHO HAS HAD SOME DIFFERENCES WITH AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (ATUF) PRESIDENT BENYA OVER ACHIEVING CONSENSUS AND TIMING OF LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS SUDDENLY ALTERED PLANS TO SPEAK ONLY IN GRAZ AND APPEARED NEXT TO BENYA FOR TWO HOURS ON VIENNA REVIEWING STAND BEFORE FLYING TO GRAZ. BEFORE ESTIMATED CROWD OF 35,000 PLUS SEVERAL THOUSAND MARCHERS BENYA STATED THAT NOBODY WOULD SUCCEED IN "DRIVING WEDGE INTO GREAT SOCIALIST FAMILY". IN GRAZ WHERE KREISKY WANTED SHOW OF SOCIALIST STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY FOLLOWING RECENT LOSS OF MAYORALTY, HE PROMISED THAT "GOVT WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO PUT WORKERS CO- DETERMINATION INTO PRACTICE BEFORE END OF YEAR".

2. OTHER SPEAKERS IN VIENNA, INCLUDING PROVINCIAL PARTY CHAIRMAN PROBST AND MAYOR SLAVIK, REVIEWED ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THREE YEARS OF SOCIALIST GOVT BY CITING FULL EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC GROWTH, HARD CURRENCY, TAX REFORM, EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS FOR FARMERS AND WORKERS. SLAVIK ALSO USED OCCASION TO PRAISE HIS CITY ADMIN AND ATTACK
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PEOPLE' S
PARTY OPPOSITION IN CITY HALL THUS MARKING OPENING OF 1974
LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

3. THE MAJOR DEMANDS CITED BY BENYA WERE EARLY PASSAGE OF
THE NEW LABOR CODE WHICH PROVIDES FOR GREATER CO- DETERMINATION
RIGHTS AND SPEEDY REFORM OF RADIO AND TV (ORF).

4. COMMUNIST TURNOUT FOR ITS OWN MAY DAY MARCH WAS MINIMAL AS
USUAL (APPROXIMATELY 1,000 ONLOOKERS AND EQUAL NUMBER OF
MARCHERS) BUT DREW YOUNGER CROWD THAN IN RECENT YEARS. HUMES

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